**Wednesday: Gym @ 1:45**

Read *Almost to Freedom* [Vaunda Micheaux Nelson](http://www.amazon.com/Vaunda-Micheaux-Nelson/e/B001IXUAD0/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1303167505&sr=1-1) and Colin Bootman

**Whole Group:** Yesterday, we read a book *Almost Freedom*. In it the Underground Railroad was mentioned. Let’s read a book on the Underground Railroad to learn more about it. Since we are celebrating Black History this week, I want to point out a lady named Harriet Tubman. She was considered to be the black Moses, because she led people out of slavery. Since the slaves could not read or write, they sang songs telling them what direction they should go and when they should leave. Harriet Tubman’s favorite song to sing was song *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*? Sing it with me if you remember some of the words.

Chorus:Swing low, sweet chariot,Comin' for to carry me home!

I looked over Jordan and what did I see,  
Comin' for to carry me home!  
A band of angels comin' after me,  
Comin' for to carry me home!

What type of message do you think this song was trying to portray? Do you think she was trying to tell the slaves something?

**Work on Writing:** We are going to work on writing now and I want you to write a song or a poem that means something, but have a hidden meaning like the song Swing Low and Follow the Drinking Gourd.

**Read to Someone:** Find someone to read your poem/song to. See if you can figure out the hidden meanings behind the words.

**Whole Group:** Another form of communication between the Underground Railroad workers and the slaves was to use quilt patterns (show patterns).Certain quilt patterns were used to convey certain messages. Such as a bear paw pattern would say, to follow the bear paws over the mountain. The star pattern would remind them to follow the ‘Drinking Gourd’. The drinking gourd refers to the star patterns (constellation) of the big dipper and the North Star. The slaves would follow the North Star because they knew it would direct them north.

We are now going to create our own quilt patterns and build one big quilt. Here are some pictures of the patterns used by the Underground Railroad workers (show pictures).

**Listen to Reading:** Read the Story of Harriet Tubman